

GENERAL ORDER No. 65
CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM PILOT PROJECT

Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and policies of the Judicial Conference of the United States ("JCUS") prohibit, in both civil and criminal proceedings in federal district courts, the taking of photographs in courtrooms during judicial proceedings and the broadcasting of judicial proceedings from courtrooms. To evaluate the effect of cameras in courtrooms, the JCUS, in consultation with the Federal Judicial Center undertook a pilot project to allow, subject to tightly-drawn parameters, the recording of proceedings in selected district courts beginning July 18, 2011 and ending July 18, 2015 (the "pilot project").

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California was one of the fourteen participating district courts in the pilot project. Under the rules of the program, "although the data collection portion of the pilot concluded July 18, 2015, participating courts may continue to record proceedings and post them on uscourts.gov until the Judicial Conference considers recommendations regarding the pilot, which may occur at its March 2016 session" (source: uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/cameras-courts/overview-cameras-courts-pilot).

The Court has elected to continue to record proceedings and to post them on uscourts.gov until further action of the JCUS. The program will continue to be governed by: the national "Pilot Guidelines" available at cand.uscourts.gov/cameras/guidelines; the procedures to implement the pilot project adopted by this Court and published at cand.uscourts.gov/cameras/procedures; and this General Order.

ADOPTED: September 1, 2011
AMENDED: November 17, 2015

FOR THE COURT:



Phyllis J. Hamilton
Chief Judge